

*BOROUGH OF ROOSEVELT
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

**ORDINANCE 20-08
INTRODUCTION DATE: 06-08-2020
ADOPTION DATE: 06-22-2020**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROOSEVELT AUGMENTING THE BOROUGH
CODE TO INCLUDE NEW CHAPTER 19: "TREE PROTECTION" TO REGULATE THE
REMOVAL OF TREES FROM LANDS WITHIN THE BOROUGH**

C/Hamilton offered the following Ordinance and moved its introduction, which was seconded by C/Esakoff.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Roosevelt, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, that the Borough's Revised General Ordinances are hereby amended to include new Chapter 19: "Protection of Trees" as follows:

CHAPTER 19 TREE PROTECTION

§ 19-1 Title.

This Chapter shall be known as and may be cited as the "Environmental Tree Protection Ordinance of the Borough of Roosevelt."

§ 19-2 Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to preserve trees and woodlands throughout the Borough of Roosevelt, and to restrict the removal of trees, thereby maintaining the beauty and character of the Borough, preventing erosion, and restricting any action that could create a hazard to persons or properties.

§ 19-3 Definitions.

For the purpose of this section, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meaning given herein. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words in the plural number include the singular and words in the singular number include the plural number. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely directory.

Applicant shall mean any person making application to the Tree Conservation Officer for a Tree Removal Permit.

Clear cutting shall mean the removal of more than twenty (20%) percent of the total number of trees, six (6) inches in DBH or greater of any type of trees on a lot and located outside of the necessary footprint as defined below.

Diameter at breast height (DBH) shall mean the diameter of a tree measured at breast height, which is approximately four and one-half (4 1/2) feet above the ground. The diameter of a multi-trunked tree shall be two-thirds (2/3) of the sum of the diameters of all trunks but not less than the diameter of the largest trunk. Diameter shall be calculated to be one-third (1/3) of the circumference for the purpose of this definition.

Emergency shall mean any unforeseen circumstance or occurrence, the existence of which constitutes a clear and immediate danger or hazard to person or property.

Mitigation plan shall mean a plan prepared by a qualified person acceptable to the Tree Conservation Officer showing the planting of replacement trees on the property on which tree removal activity is taking place or on other properties within the Borough. Said plan must depict, in a manner acceptable to the Tree Conservation Officer, a reasonable scheme for the ultimate full replacement of trees removed.

Necessary footprint shall mean the portion of the lot located within a line drawn fifteen (15) feet outside the limits of any existing principal structure or any proposed principal structure for which site plan approval has been granted or a valid building permit or other necessary municipal approval exists; and within five (5) feet outside the limit of any existing accessory structure or any proposed accessory building and/or accessory structure for which site plan approval has been granted or a valid building permit or other necessary municipal approval exists.

Ornamental tree - *See Tree, ornamental.*

Permittee shall mean any person who has been issued a permit pursuant to the terms and conditions of this section and who is obligated to fulfill all the terms of this section.

Person shall mean any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, or public or private organization of any kind other than those exempted from the provisions of this section.

Specimen tree or significant specimen tree shall mean any tree or ornamental tree with a diameter at breast height (DBH) exceeding sixty (60%) percent of that of the largest similar tree listed in either of these references: Monmouth County's Largest Trees, prepared and updated annually by the Monmouth County Shade Tree Commission of New Jersey's Big Trees, prepared and updated biannually by the Division of Parks and Forestry of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Street tree - *See Tree, street.*

Thinning shall mean the removal of undesirable, competitive, diseased or damaged trees so as to improve the development of the remaining trees on a lot.

Tree shall mean any living deciduous or coniferous (evergreen) tree which is six (6) inches in DBH or greater, with a normally anticipated mature height of twenty (20) feet or greater.

Tree Conservation Officer shall mean the person designated by resolution of the Borough Council to administer and enforce this section. If no such person is designated, the Borough Clerk or the Clerk's designee shall act as Tree Conservation Officer.

Tree expert shall mean a specialist in trees or tree care whose qualifications are acceptable to the Tree Conservation Officer.

Tree, ornamental shall mean any living Dogwood, American Holly, Native Laurel and any other small decorative tree with a normally anticipated mature height of six (6) feet or greater (including, but not limited to: Birch, Japanese Maple, Cherry, Crabapple, and Magnolia).

Tree, street shall mean any deciduous hardwood shade tree whose center point at ground level is located within the Borough or County right-of-way.

§ 19-4 Prohibited Activity.

The activities described in this Chapter and any substantially similar activity are prohibited activities:

- a. Removing, causing or permitting the removal of any significant specimen tree as defined in Section 19-3 above without first obtaining variance relief.
- b. Removing, causing or permitting the removal of any tree having a trunk diameter of six (6) inches DBH or larger without first obtaining a tree removal permit.
- c. Removing, causing or permitting the removal of any ornamental tree having a size as follows:
 1. Three (3) inches DBH or larger for any Dogwood (*Cornus Florida*) or American Holly (*Illex Opaca*);
 2. Four (4) inches DBH or larger for any other ornamental tree.
- d. Clear cutting or the removal of more than twenty (20%) percent of the total number of trees, six (6) inches in DBH or greater of any size or type of trees within an area on a lot and located outside of the necessary footprint as defined in Section 19-3 or removal of twenty (20%) percent of the trees on slopes steeper than fifteen (15%) percent.
- e. Undertaking, causing or permitting any activities including occupancy, demolition or construction on, or adjacent to, any lot which may damage; or otherwise causing or permitting any damage, injury or disfigurement to any tree or ornamental tree described in paragraph a. above.
- f. Removing or damaging any street tree without authorization from the Borough of Roosevelt.

§ 19-5 Permit Required.

- a. No person shall engage in, nor allow, permit or direct any person to engage in, the removal of any tree six (6) inches in DBH or greater unless a tree removal permit is first obtained from the Tree Conservation Officer.
- b. No person shall engage in, nor allow, permit or direct any person to engage in, any prohibited activity as defined in Section 19-4 above unless a variance is first obtained from the Planning Board and a tree removal permit is subsequently obtained from the Tree Conservation Officer.

§ 19-6 Permit Application Requirements.

- a. Application for a tree removal permit shall consist of:
 1. A fully and accurately completed application form provided by the Borough.
 2. A plan showing the location of all existing trees six (6) inches in DBH and greater within ten (10) feet of the proposed limits of disturbance (including all trees located within the necessary footprint) and all proposed tree removal in sufficient detail to identify the nature and limits of the proposed tree removal, including but not limited to the location, species and diameter of all tree removals and the limits of all existing and proposed principal structure's accessory structures in relation to any removals and any proposed grade changes. All trees described in subsection 19-4a,1 or 2 shall be shown on a plan if construction or any disturbance is proposed within ten (10) feet of the canopy line of such trees. For removals of five (5) or fewer trees on a lot where the principal use is an existing single-family dwelling, the plan may be provided using a legible sketch, detailed narrative, a tax map reproduction, a copy of an existing survey or similar drawing with field measurements and dimensions provided by the property owner or the owner's agent. For other removals, the plan shall be prepared by a qualified professional, acceptable to the Tree Conservation Officer.

3. A narrative description of the property owner's reasons for removing the trees, including a description of any alternates considered.

4. A signed evaluation and recommendation from a tree expert, whose qualifications are acceptable to the Tree Conservation Officer, shall be provided if the reasons for the removal include the removal of dead or diseased trees or a horticulturally advantageous thinning or overgrown area.

5. A tree removal permit application fee:

(a) For applications on a lot containing an existing single-family dwelling, not subject to a contract to sell, an option or agreement to buy or a similar agreement, and where no change of title has taken place within the prior calendar year:

- (1) Ten (\$10.00) dollars for removal of five (5) or fewer trees; or
- (2) Fifty (\$50.00) dollars for removal of between six (6) and ten (10) trees; or
- (3) One hundred (\$100.00) dollars for removal of between eleven (11) and twenty (20) trees; or
- (4) One hundred fifty (\$150.00) dollars for removal of over twenty (20) trees; or

(b) For all other applications:

- (1) One hundred fifty (\$150.00) dollars for removal of five (5) or fewer trees; or
- (2) One hundred fifty (\$150.00) dollars, plus twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars for each tree removed over five (5) trees.

(c) Fees may be waived or modified by the Borough Council for charitable, public or quasi-public agencies or for eleemosynary institutions or in unusual and exceptional circumstances.

(d) Cost for the Borough's Independent Expert evaluation shall be borne by the applicant.

b. The applicant will place or cause to be placed, in a highly visible manner, a one (1) inch wide yellow paint dot that is marked on the trunk of each tree proposed for removal, to aid the Borough in evaluating the proposed removals.

c. The Tree Conservation Officer may seek the advice of such Borough officials, agencies, committees, boards, commissions, and independent Borough Tree Expert, as the Officer may believe necessary in evaluating a permit application.

d. After evaluation of an application, the Tree Conservation Officer will take one (1) of the following actions within the time set forth:

1. If the Officer determines that the permit application is incomplete, unclear, inaccurate or otherwise deficient, the Officer shall so advise the applicant and return the permit application within ten (10) days of the date of application. The applicant may revise, supplement and/or resubmit the application, which will then be treated as a new application except no additional fee is required.

2. If the Officer determines that the proposed activity is permitted by the standards set forth in Section 19-7, a permit shall be, respectively, issued within thirty (30) days of the date of application.

3. If the Officer determines that the proposed activity is prohibited by the standards set forth in subsection 19-4, the application may be referred to the Planning Board for review and recommendation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-25b(3) within sixty (60) days of the date of application. The Officer shall issue or deny a permit for a prohibited activity within ninety (90) days of the application.

4. In issuing permits under this section, the Officer and or Planning Board may impose reasonable permit conditions necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section.

e. Any applicant aggrieved by any decision taken by the Tree Conservation Officer in the administration and/or enforcement of this section may, within ten (10) days of the date of action of the Officer, appeal to the Planning Board. The Planning Board may establish procedures to hear such appeals and shall render a decision affirming, reversing and/or modifying the decision or action of the Tree Conservation Officer within ninety (90) days of the date of appeal. In hearing such appeals, the Planning Board may seek the opinion of the Shade Tree Committee, the Environmental Commission or any other State, County or municipal agency or official.

§ 19-7 Review of Applications.

a. When reviewing applications, the Tree Conservation Officer will, after inspecting and evaluating the conditions on the site and adjacent properties and consulting with such other officials, agencies, committees, boards and commissions as the Officer deems appropriate, determine if the activity proposed is prohibited, or permitted in accordance with this section.

1. Prohibited activities include:

- (a) Clear cutting as defined by Section 19-4 of this chapter.
- (b) Removal of a significant specimen tree.
- (c) Any action which will substantially increase the potential of erosion as defined by the applicable Soil Conservation District Standards.
- (d) Any action inconsistent with other land use approvals or regulations affecting the site.
- (e) Any action which would create a potential hazard to persons or properties.

2. Permitted activities include:

- (a) Removal and or thinning of trees and ornamental trees smaller than those identified in Section 19-4(b) and Section 19-4(c).
- (b) Tree removal within the necessary footprint as defined in Section 19-3.
- (c) Any action, including tree removals, required or permitted pursuant to subdivision, site plan and/or variance approval granted by a municipal agency acting under the Municipal Land Use Law and local ordinances.
- (d) Removal of dead, dying or diseased trees or which constitutes a horticulturally advantageous thinning of an existing overgrown area with the approval of the Borough's Tree Conservation Officer.

3. Restricted activities include:

- (a) All tree removal activities, which are not permitted, are prohibited. Applications may propose a combination of prohibited, and permitted activities. In such cases, the Tree Conservation Officer may segregate the activities proposed and take the appropriate action on each type of activity.
- (b) Applications for restricted activities shall be referred to the Planning Board for recommendation to the Tree Conservation Officer.

b. The Planning Board shall consider these factors in making a recommendation to the Tree Conservation Officer concerning a restricted activity:

- 1. Whether the proposed cutting or removal would impair the growth and redevelopment of the remaining trees on the applicant's property or adjacent property.
- 2. Whether the proposed cutting or removal would change existing drainage patterns.
- 3. Whether the proposed removal would allow soil erosion or increase dust.
- 4. Whether the proposed removal would constitute a significant change in the screening between existing or proposed buildings on contiguous lots or the aspect of the lot as viewed from the adjacent public road.
- 5. The overall effect of removal of such tree(s) on the physical and aesthetic value of the property and the neighborhood.
- 6. Whether proposed changes in the topography of the area where such tree(s) are located will result in a land configuration which shall be deemed injurious to the trees or other trees located nearby so as to require welling, construction of an aerification system, or tree removal or replacement.
- 7. Whether the proposed changes in topography are required to comply with the minimum Base Flood Elevation as shown on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps.
- 8. Whether a mitigation plan is required. The purpose of such a plan shall be the ultimate replacement on the property of the trees being removed, giving due consideration to a reasonable maturity period for new plantings, and the maintenance at all times of at least twenty (20%) percent of the existing trees (outside of the necessary footprint) on a lot in the existing state.
- 9. Whether alternative plans, which eliminate or reduce undesirable impacts, but provide reasonable use of the property are possible, technically practicable and financially feasible. In particular, the Board will consider if the removal of any trees is unavoidable and whether tree removal in excess of twenty (20%) percent is unavoidable.
- 10. Whether reasonable application of the standards of this section creates a substantial hardship for the applicant, prohibiting reasonable use of the property consistent with the Planning and Development Regulations, and whether, therefore, one (1) or more of the standards should be waived.
- 11. In appropriate circumstances, an applicant may be required to post performance guarantees, performance cash bonds and/or maintenance guarantees assuring compliance with the provisions of any tree removal permit and this section and assuring provision of replacement plantings required by any mitigation plan or damaged or removed contrary to the terms of any tree removal permit or this section.

c. The Tree Conservation Officer shall give due deference to the recommendations of the Planning Board with regard to an application for a permit to allow a restricted activity. The Officer may only act contrary to, or significantly modify, the recommendations of the Planning Board if the Officer finds that the recommendations are based on incomplete or inaccurate information, are unreasonable or impracticable or would produce results contrary to the intent of this section. The Officer shall provide the Planning Board with a copy of the Officer's final action on all permits for a restricted activity for their approval.

§ 19-8 Tree Mitigation Requirements.

a. Not more than the number of tree(s) as set forth in Exhibit A shall be removed on any lot unless the tree(s) are replaced with tree(s) the total DBH of which is equal to at least thirty (30%) percent of the total DBH inches of the tree(s) removed.

Exhibit A

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TREES THAT CAN BE REMOVED WITHOUT TREE MITIGATION

R-40 Residential District	One (1) Tree
R-AG 400 Residential/Agricultural District	Three (3) Trees or Less
R-100 Residential Conservation District	Two (2) Trees or Less
AH Affordable Housing	Two (2) Trees or Less
C-40 Retail Business District	One (1) Tree
I-80 Industrial District	Two (2) Trees or Less

b. No replacement tree shall have a DBH less than two (2) inches.

c. All replacement trees shall be installed on the subject site. If in the opinion of the Tree Conservation Officer, sufficient space is not available on the subject property, the trees may be installed on an alternate site within the Borough, acceptable to the Tree Conservation Officer; however, the Tree Conservation Officer may waive this requirement when in its opinion it is in the best interest of the Borough, subject to the applicant posting a contribution in the amount of five hundred (\$500.00) dollars per tree. Funds collected by the Borough from applicants as a result of waivers shall be maintained in a shade tree account, the proceeds of which shall be available to install and maintain shade trees throughout the Borough.

d. Tree replacement and/or tree mitigation shall be shown on a landscape plan or other document shall be prepared by a qualified professional, acceptable to the Tree Conservation Officer.

e. The Tree Conservation Officer shall seek the advice of such Borough officials, agencies, committees, boards, commissions, or independent Borough Tree Experts, as the Officer may believe necessary in evaluating the mitigation plan.

f. An applicant shall be required to post performance cash and maintenance guarantees to assure compliance with the provisions of any tree removal permit and this section and assuring provision of replacement plantings required by any mitigation plan or trees damaged or trees removed contrary to the terms of any tree removal permit or this section.

§ 19-9 Protection of Existing Trees and Street Trees.

In connection with any construction, subsequent to tree clearing but prior to the start of other construction, snow fencing or other protective barrier acceptable to the Construction Official and/or Tree Conservation Officer, shall be placed around trees and street trees that are not to be removed. The protective barrier shall be placed at the drip line (or canopy line) of any tree and shall remain in place until all construction activity is terminated. No equipment, chemicals, soil deposits or construction material shall be placed within any areas so protected by barriers. Any landscaping or utility activities subsequent to the removal of the barriers shall be accomplished with light machinery or hand labor. Tree protection measures shall be in place prior to the issuance of any tree removal permit or building permit.

§ 19-10 Emergency Action.

In the event of an emergency, any person, otherwise subject to this section, having responsibility, jurisdiction and/or authority to cure, remedy or mitigate dangerous, hazardous, inconvenient, unhealthy or obnoxious conditions resulting from the emergency may, without first applying for and obtaining a permit under this section, take any lawful action which is otherwise a tree removal activity. However, such person, or the agent or designee of such person shall apply for a tree removal permit not later than the end of the second succeeding business day after any tree removal activity takes place and may not proceed with non-emergency work including restoration until a permit is obtained.

§ 19-11 Persons Exempt.

This Chapter shall not apply to prohibited activities by:

a. The Borough or those acting under the control and direction of the Borough including any person acting pursuant to a specific agreement or contract approved by the Borough Council.

b. Federal, State or County agencies or those acting under their control and direction.

c. Entities, having by their charters and the Laws of the State, authority to engage in a prohibited activity without the consent of the Borough but only insofar as the purpose to which such authority extends; in all other respects, such entities shall comply with this section.

d. Commercial nurseries and similar established legally operating uses.

e. Properties operating under a silviculture or forestry management plan approved by the State of New Jersey.

f. Utility companies with public rights-of-way when such companies are operating under the jurisdiction of the public agency controlling the rights-of-way.

§ 19-12 Violations and Penalties.

a. Any person(s), firm(s), or corporation(s) who violates any provision of this section shall, upon conviction thereof in Municipal Court, be punished by imposition of the penalties set forth in Chapter 1, Section 1-5 and replacement of the tree, consistent with the chapter requirements. Each instance of engaging in a separate tree removal activity, in violation of this section, including specifically each tree removed, shall be deemed a separate offense.

b. In addition, the Borough may institute civil action for injunctive or other relief to enforce the provisions of this section including requiring the replacement of all trees illegally removed and/or, at the option of the Borough, the payment of a contribution to allow equivalent mitigation on public land.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that any ordinances or portions thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as of the effective date of this Ordinance. All other provisions of the Revised General Ordinances are ratified and remain in full force and effect.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that, if any provision of this Ordinance or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect, and to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall be in full force and take effect upon final passage and publication, according to law.

ATTEST:

APPROVED

Kathleen Hart, Borough Clerk

Peggy Malkin, Mayor